New Stamp for Mandela, Honorary Canadian

On January 30 Canada Post issued a stamp to commemorate the heroic life of Nelson Mandela, and celebrate the legacy of courage, determination and persistent hope he left behind. The stamp also recognizes the special relationship Canada shared with Mandela, who referred to this country as his home away from home.

During his 27 years in prison, Mandela became a symbol of the moral fight for freedom, equality and justice in South Africa and around the world. His message strongly resonated among Canadians, who were at the forefront of the global outcry over his imprisonment and of the unrelenting demand for his release.

After his release in 1990, Canada was among the first countries Mandela visited. Four years later, as president of South Africa, he specifically drew on Canadian values, policies and practices to build his post-apartheid vision of a multi-racial democracy rooted in equality and governed by the rule of law. In 2001, on his third visit to Canada, he was bestowed with honorary Canadian citizenship. He was the first living person to receive this recognition.

"Nelson Mandela, an honorary Canadian citizen, is an inspiration to everyone who values human rights. As a great champion of freedom, beloved by Canadians, he will forever be remembered as a man whose courage changed not just South Africa, but also the world," said Chris Alexander, Canada's Citizenship and Immigration Minister.

"Our stamp program seeks to tell the stories of people who have had a powerful effect on our society, and Nelson Mandela's story is among the most powerful. Canada Post is truly privileged to celebrate his life, his legacy and his struggle that inspired generations to fight for what is right," said Deepak Chopra, President and CEO of Canada Post.

The stamp was based on a photograph by famous Armenian Canadian photographer Yousuf Karsh on Mandela's first visit to Canada. It was issued in booklets of 10 and also is available in a souvenir sheet with an international rate stamp.

For information on this and other Canada new issues and a link to the Canada Post website, please go to http://www.stampnewsnow.com/canadaPostnewissues.html.